Tea Board for purposes of export are not related to the quality control parameters fixed by the European Union in respect of pesticide residue. Exporters are required to ensure the quality control as per the prescription of individual importing countries.

(d) Tea Board has been communicating the concerned pesticide regulations and stipulations to the trade and industry and also have held discussions with tea industry. Indian tea industry and also the Tea Research Institutes are organising seminars/Workshops/training programmes at the grass root level to educate the managerial staff and the field level workers about the dose specificity of chemicals, various stipulations on pesticide residues, gap period to be followed between spraying and plucking and regarding withdrawal of registration of chemicals like DDT, Tetradifon, Heptachlor, BHC etc.

Liberalisation of imports of second-hand capital Goods

704. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is liberalising the import of second-hand capital goods; and

(b) if so, what are the details of this policy and its likely impact on internal industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Import of second hand capital goods of a minimum age of seven years and having a minimum residual life of five years is permitted freely in twenty industrial sectors as specified in Appendix III of the Export & Import Policy, 1992—97 (Revised Edition: March 1993) copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) Review of the Policy is a continuing and ongoing process and changes are made as and when considered necessary in public interest.

Exports to Russia and Ex-Soviet Republics

705. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports to Russia and Ex-Soviet Republics is now stabilised; and

(b) what is the amount of export made to those countries separately in the year 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Exports to Russia and Ex-Soviet Republics are responding to the specific measures taken for their promotion. The strategy is designed to sustain the momentum of growth.

(b) The aggregate amount of exports to these countries in the year 1992-93 was Rs. 1693.2 crores. Separate figures for exports to these countries are available only since April 1993.

Report on working of Directorate general of Supplies and disposals

706. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since received the report of the high-powered Committee to re-orient the working of the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D);

(b) if so, what are its broad features; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Director General (Supplies and Disposals) to simplify the rules and procedure being followed in